



PRESS OFFICE

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San Diego Businessman, Veteran Elected Chairman of SBA's Advisory Committee on Veterans Business; New Members Added

WASHINGTON – SBA Administrator Business Hector V. Barreto announced today that business owner James G. Blair of San Diego has been elected chairman of the 15-member Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs.

The committee was established to provide an independent source of advice and policy recommendations to the U.S. Small Business Administration, Congress, the President and other policy-makers. Blair, formerly the vice chairman, replaced Bob J. Archuleta at the helm of the committee.

Also elected as vice chairman alongside Mr. Blair was Dennis DeMolet.

"This committee plays a significant role in advancing the cause of veteran business owners and we value its advice," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "Veteran business owners make an important contribution to the nation's economy, and we are committed to helping them be successful in their entrepreneurial endeavor."

The group is composed of eight veterans who are owners of small businesses, and seven representatives of veterans' organizations. Twelve members were originally named in April 2003: James E. Altmeyer of Wheeling, W.V.; Bob J. Archuleta of Los Angeles, Calif.; James G. Blair of San Diego, Calif.; L. Jerry Caton of Dublin, Calif.; Dennis DeMolet of Dayton, Ohio; David W. Haughey of Salt Lake City, Utah; Samuel Metters of McLean, Va.; Ron Miller of Dawsonville, Ga.; John M. O'Brien of Coronado, Calif.; Elvin Clarence Toppin of Edenton, N.C.; Shane Edward Walsh of Pearland, Texas, and Joe Wyant of Gainesville, Ga.

In addition to renewing the committee's leadership, two new members were appointed: Thomas S. Bednarczyk of Guilford, Conn., and Victoria M. Parham of El Paso, Texas. A third new member will be appointed shortly.

The mission of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs is to review, coordinate and monitor plans and programs that affect the ability of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans to obtain capital, credit and access to markets.

For additional information about the Office of Veterans Business Development, visit www.sba.gov/VETS/. For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov> in English, or www.negocios.gov in Spanish.